

INDIANA STATE SENTINEL.

THE GREAT BANK FORGER.

The following incidents connected with the great bank forger, whose trial is now going on in Philadelphia, show the depravity of the human heart, lost to all sense of moral accountability:

From the Journal of Commerce.

A GREAT MAN CAUGHT.

The Messrs. Browns and Mr. Corrie have had the good news to-day, that the villain who swindled them of \$52,000 had been arrested, and with plenty of money in his possession. In July, 1840, there appeared a paragraph in the newspapers stating that Col. Monroe Edwards, of Louisiana, had with great philanthropy brought his two hundred slaves from his plantation up to Cincinnati, where he had set them all free. Col. Edwards stated that time introduced himself to Mr. Lewis Tappan and other leading abolitionists, and stated he was about to proceed to London, to procure the intercession of the British government, for the purpose of obtaining the release of a large number of slaves who had been illegally smuggled from Cuba into Texas.

Before he left this country, however, he became short of funds and desired his abolition friends to furnish him some aid in this respect; but they in the meantime had received advice from Cincinnati that no one there knew anything of the two hundred liberated slaves, and they had come to know that the Colonel had with him a young negro, a native African, who was sometimes a black boy and sometimes a black girl, as he had occasion for the services of either. They therefore declined to aid the Colonel. This poor black girl was last winter a tenant of our Alms House, where she was delivered of a mulatto infant. Col. Edwards went to London and his plans were delayed by a letter written to Mr. Buxton.

In conversation with the Mayor, Mr. Morris, last year, Mr. Tappan told the story of Col. Edwards, and in the pursuit of rogues, some suspicion was turned towards Edwards, and on comparison of the letters which Mr. Tappan received from him, with the letters of Caldwell to Messrs. Browns, the writing was found to be by the same hand. A mischievous man in Philadelphia was employed to hunt up the African girl whom he accomplished in a few hours, and very soon Col. Edwards was found under his directions. He was taken to the Police and on searching his lodgings his trunk was found containing a very large sum of money. When the last advices came away \$30,000 had been counted, and more remained.

The Colonel is the son of a highly respectable gentleman in Kentucky who deceased in 1832. Whether he was the holder of the Messrs. Little and others, some months ago, remains yet to be determined. Some of the money received by him has passed through the hands of persons here and several arrests have been or will be made here.

Mr. Jacob Little went to Philadelphia last evening for the purpose of determining whether Edwards is the man who swindled him.

Mr. Tappan has furnished us with the following statement:

Some time in May or June, 1840, a paragraph was inserted in the Cincinnati, Ohio, newspapers, that Col. Monroe Edwards, of Louisiana, had emancipated in that city, between one and two hundred slaves. This was copied in various papers in different parts of the country. In the month of June, the person named arrived here, and came to the store of Arthur Tappan & Co., with a note of introduction from Morris Robinson, Esq., of this city, to whom he was introduced by a letter from the late President of the Bank of the U. S., at Mobile, accompanied by a handsome looking colored lad named Henry, whom he represented to be his servant. He appeared to be a man of about 26 or 28 years of age, five feet and six or seven inches in height, florid complexion, genteel appearance, and prepossessing in his address.

He stated that he belonged to Iberville, Louisiana, and that he had a plantation at that place, some seventy or eighty miles from New Orleans, near the river Mississippi; that he had recently owned one hundred and sixty men, women, and children, having inherited all of them, except five or six, whom he had purchased. That his father, Hon. Amos Edwards, was a native of Loudon county, of Prince William county, Va., that he had emigrated to Kentucky when young, and lived at Paris, Bourbon county, and afterwards resided at Russellville, Logan county, that his father was a merchant and speculator; that he went to Louisiana in 1812, and had been a Senator in the legislature of that State, that his father owned upwards of 700 slaves whom he distributed by will, to his widow and children. He said his mother had slaves in her own right, and was pious (?) but none of them professed to have religious principles; that his father deceased in 1832, in Texas, where he owned immense estates, being grants from the Mexican Government, together with purchases.

He stated that when he arrived at the age of 21 he came into possession of H42 slaves, with a plantation and other property, the whole of which was assessed at two hundred and twelve thousand dollars. He said that the slaves at that time would have averaged one hundred dollars each. Some of them, he said, were excellent mechanics, and could have sold them at five thousand dollars a head. He considered his slaves the principal part of his property, as land would not bring much without slaves.

Edwards stated that he had a large number of slaves, natives of Africa, in Texas, and he used every exertion to get them out of that country, but the President of Texas had issued a Proclamation forbidding such removals. He then went to England in May, 1838, and returned in the following autumn. One object of his going was to solicit the intercession of the British government with the government of Texas, so that the Africans could be restored to freedom.

He said he supposed there are a thousand Africans in Texas who had been brought from Havana and introduced into that country by smuggling.

Edwards stated that in England he sought an introduction to some members of the British ministry, through the agency of General Henderson, the Texian Ambassador, but this gentleman had refused to introduce him, for the reason, as Edwards supposed, that he wished to obtain their aid in the accomplishment of an act that was contrary to the policy of his government. Edwards, relying upon the good offices of Henderson, had neglected to take letters of introduction, and therefore remained to the United States. He had, however, been in ministerial parties, and had formed some intimacy with the Russian Ambassador, who took a particular fancy to him, and had assured him that if he could get the appointment of Minister from Texas to Russia, he would be very favorably received at that Court, &c.

Edwards stated that the grief he endured on account of the sufferings of those Africans, who had been so improperly deprived of their liberty, so affected him that he had come to the resolution to do all he could to effect their liberation, and sympathy for the slaves he held in Louisiana had also brought him to the determination to emancipate the whole of them, although by the act he should be almost penniless. Since the year 1838 he had been arranging his affairs with a view to their emancipation, and then to visit England on behalf of the Africans enslaved in Texas. He said that on the 23d May he left Iberville with between one and two hundred of his slaves for Cincinnati, and had there emancipated the whole number, after distributing among them the proceeds of the last year's crop, amounting to thirty dollars each.

He exhibited a deed of emancipation of two slaves, drawn by Wright & Walker, Esqs., of Cincinnati, one of them being named Henry, and said that in a few days he expected to receive by mail the deed referred to, and Gov. Shannon's name was affixed to it in consequence of the death of the proper recording officer. He said seventy-two of the emancipated slaves had returned to Iberville, as they had relations there, twenty of them had remained in Cincinnati, some had gone to Kentucky, and some to Illinois.

Respecting Henry, the lad who attended Edwards as a servant, his master said that he was in

his seventeenth year, was a native African, having been purchased in Havana, and that he had a very great regard for the boy who had saved his life from assassination in T. C., about two years before, by communicating the conversation he had heard of some person who meditated the murder of his master.

The conduct of the lad, Henry, made a deep impression on his mind, and was a prime cause, he said, of his raving, about ten months ago, to emancipate all his slaves in Louisiana and Texas, contrary to the urgent remonstrances of his family connections. Edwards stated that Henry had a twin sister, the very image of him, whom he had sent to New Orleans direct to England to be educated there, and that on Henry's arrival he should be put to school also.

Such was substantially the statement made by Col. Monroe Edwards, taken down from his lips, but we have never been at the trouble to see whether it agrees with the facts, or with facts so far as it might be ascertained. There were several things in the narrative, rather strange and unaccountable, I therefore immediately addressed a letter to Dr. Bailey, editor of the Philanthropist, at Cincinnati, to inquire into and report to me the facts. The reply was dated June 27th, 1840. The story of Edwards was generally believed in Cincinnati, but the attorneys in the case knew of only two slaves that had been in that city, the details of whose emancipation were recited in the court and free paper published for them. Dr. Bailey believed that no more of his slaves had been at Cincinnati, although a general claim of emancipation had been made out by the Governor, but had recorded, and forwarded to Edwards in New York, &c. As Edwards had positively assured me that he took all the slaves to Cincinnati, I naturally, on the receipt of this information, imposed him to be an impostor.

Edwards soon after applied to me, by letter, to effect a loan for him, to the amount of five thousand dollars to defray his expenses to Eng. and, for which, he said, he could give good security, on real property, in Mobile. He said he had drawn on the departments at Washington, &c., to the amount of eighteen thousand dollars, but Edwards had not arrived to meet him, and he had no means, &c., and he could not wait, as he was due to sail, proceeding to England without delay. He thought his friends in the slave states might be willing to advance the money until his return. Feeling unwilling to let him a second master, and as reply to his letter should be received from Dr. Bailey, and having received an intimation from Dr. Bailey, that this letter of introduction enabled to him by Col. Edwards, was rather tardily expressed, I suggested to Edwards, that perhaps some of his friends in the city would be willing to advance part of the money, and the undersigned hoped by the most unfeeling attention, with full experience in the business, and his determination to make immediate payment and have nothing against the same are notified to present them duly authenticated for settlement. Said estate is now:

SAMUEL McCLELLAND, Adm'r.
Oct. 19th, 1840. 13-38

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

JOHN JAMISON of Indianapolis, being dead having died Dec. 1st, 1840, now deceased, his stock of merchandise, notes, book accounts, &c., of his hardware establishment, trust, for the benefit of the credit of the said Jamison, particularly mentioned in his will, and the value of his personal effects, as well as the value of his debts, to the date of his death, agree to accept a dividend of the assets and release the said Jamison from further liability.

The undersigned, that the undersigned have taken up themselves the execution of the trust, and offer the goods for sale, or otherwise, or at said Jamison's last stand, and persons identified to and forwarded to Edwards in New York, &c. As

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TAKEN UP.

BY E. Knight, on the 25th inst., a small cell in the face, a good sized青年. No other marks observable. The owner can have him by paying property and paying charges.

28-12

THE PALMER HOUSE,
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

THE undersigned has taken for a series of years, that spendid and commodious Hotel establishment recently erected in the city of Indianapolis, by N. B. Palmer, Esq., for the accommodation of the public, and for the use of the members of the Indiana State Legislature, and the Legislature of the State of Indiana, deceased. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment and have nothing against the same are notified to present them duly authenticated for settlement. Said estate is now:

W. H. MORRISON, &
CHAS. SHEPHERD, & TRUSTEES.
Indianapolis 11th October, A.D. 1841. 3w-13

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